

**ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year ending 31st December, 1950

by

V. E. MILNE,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

U. BOOCOCK,

M.S.I.A.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

PELSALL :
LUNT & CO. (PRINTERS) LTD.

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STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

V. E. MILNE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Part Time Officer.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

U. BOOCK, M.S.I.A.
Whole Time Officer.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

G. A. LAVENDER, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Aldridge Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Twenty-sixth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

Instructions have been received from the Minister of Health to compile this Report on lines similar to the Annual Report for 1949.

Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population at 30th June, 1950, is 28,690, an increase of 240 from the previous estimate.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31/3/51, was 7,891.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £131,249 at 31/12/50, and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £512.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are: brickmaking, mining and agriculture, the district also being largely residential.

Vital Statistics.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar-General.

<i>Live Births—</i>	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	247	206	453
Illegitimate	4	3	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	251	209	460
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of these 460 births, 287 were registered locally, the remaining 173 were transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 62.3% of the births were therefore registered locally, almost exactly the same percentage as last year.

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population calculated as in previous years, was 16.03. An Area Comparability Factor (viz. 0.88), however, is introduced for the first time in calculating the Live Birth Rate, so that the figure 16.03 is reduced to 14.10. It would appear that for the future this A. C. Factor will be employed in calculating the Birth Rate just as an A. C. Factor has been used for many years in the past in calculating the Death Rate.

The Live Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.8.

Illegitimate Birth Rate. This rate as calculated above is 0.24.

Still Birth Rate. 14 Still Births (males 9, females 5) were registered and the rate for 1,000 total (live and still) births is 29.85, or 0.48 per 1,000 of the population. The Still Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 0.37.

For the year 1949 the Live Birth Rate was 16.66 and the Still Birth Rate was 0.24.

Death Rate. There were 256 deaths (males 145, females 111) and the Corrected Death Rate is 11.59 per 1,000 of the population. The A.C.F. (Area Comparability Factor) for the district is 1.30. The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6 and for 148 smaller towns (resident populations of 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census) it was 11.6.

One hundred and two deaths were transferred into the District and 27 were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate. (Under one year of age). All infants per 1,000 live births : 34.78.

The infantile death rate (all infants) for the whole of England and Wales was 29.8.

The infantile death rate (all infants) for the District was 23.20 for 1949.

No Illegitimate Infant died under 1 year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer, etc. 33 deaths resulted from Cancer. No death from Measles and Whooping Cough.

No death was due to Diphtheria, and 5 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities. The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on 8 swabs from throats, etc., and on specimens of blood, faeces, etc., were received. 23 specimens of sputa were examined for tubercle bacilli.

Ambulance. The Ambulance Service operated most efficiently and no complaint was received, either from the public or members of the medical profession.

Hospitals.

The Hospitals chiefly used by the inhabitants of the area are : the General, the Manor and St. Johns Hospitals, Walsall, the Birmingham Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals.

Home Nursing. No occasion arose for engaging a Nurse for the home nursing of an infectious case.

Clinics. A Venereal Diseases Clinic for diagnostic—consultative and curative purposes at the Manor Hospital, Walsall (for both males and females) is available for such cases.

Mother and Child Welfare.

The Mother and Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics are conducted by Medical Officers under the County Authority.

Water.

The South Staffordshire Water Works Co. supplies the water for the area. Monthly reports are received from the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Company, giving details of the Bacteriological, Physical and Chemical examinations of the water. All these reports have been satisfactory. The quality and quantity have been good and the water has no Plumbo-Solvent action. The supply is constant and direct from the Company's mains, except for a few isolated farms and cottages which are supplied from wells.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in dealing with some cases of isolated wells which, on sampling, have proved to yield unsatisfactory water for drinking and domestic purposes. The remoteness of such wells from available piped water services renders the cost of introducing a piped supply prohibitively high, when there is no possibility of other contributory users reducing the financial burden.

Public Cleansing.

This service has continued to be economically and efficiently conducted under the control of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

It was not considered necessary to close any School on account of an outbreak of infectious disease.

The Schools are under the control of the County Education Authority.

Housing.

The number of houses erected during the year 1950 :—

ERECTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.		OTHERWISE.	
Erected during 1950	In course of erection at end of 1950	Erected during 1950	In course of erection at end of 1950
78	60	16	9

TOTALS :	Erected during 1950	..	..	..	..	94
	In course of erection at end of 1950			..	..	69

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sampling of Milk and Foods.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (*See Sanitary Inspector's Report.*)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of Infectious cases are not now made through me, or my Department.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This service is now conducted by the County.

The following statistics however have been obtained from Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer :—

Number of children immunised for the first time during the year 1950 :—

Under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	..	192
5—14 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>216</u>

Number of children re-immunised during the year 1950.

5—14 years of age 208

The percentages of immunised children in the district at 31/12/50 were as follows :—

Under 5 years of age, 38.5%. 5—14 years of age, 80.6%.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES notified after correction.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Diphtheria	—	—
Small-Pox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	29	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—
Pneumonia	20	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Dysentery	—	—
Measles	247	—
Whooping Cough	87	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	6	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	2	—
Erysipelas	4	—
Malaria	—	—

Maternity Accommodation.

Provision for the institutional accommodation of maternity cases is contained in the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Analysis of the Infectious Cases (After Correction) in Age Groups and in Wards is given below.

AGE GROUP.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough	AGE GROUP.	Pneu- monia	Ery- sipelas	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Oph- thalmia Neon- atorum	Dys- entery	Typhoid & Para Typhoid Fever	Leth- argic Enceph- alitis	Infant- ile Paraly- sis	Malaria
Under 1 year	1	—	8	7	0—5 years	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—3 years	—	—	22	15	5—15 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
3—5 years	3	—	66	27	15—45 years	8	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
5—10 years	15	—	114	35	45—65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	7	—	14	—	65 and over	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	2	—	18	1											
25 and over	1	—	5	2											
WARD					WARD										
Aldridge	12	—	69	27	Aldridge	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Great Barr	3	—	62	10	Great Barr	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pelsall	—	—	2	18	Pelsall	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pheasey	8	—	78	13	Pheasey	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Rushall	3	—	2	9	Rushall	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Streetly	3	—	34	10	Streetly	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	29	—	247	87	TOTALS	20	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	—
Cases occurring in Institutions and included in the above figures	—	—	36	3		2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—

It will be seen that one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The incidence rates per 1,000 of the population of the three principal infectious diseases are as follows : Pneumonia : 0·69. Diphtheria, 0·00. Scarlet Fever, 1·10.

Zymotic Death Rate.

No death resulted from Zymotic Diseases.

Tuberculosis.

27 cases of Tuberculosis (*see Table below*) were entered on the Register, 23 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary.

Seven cases occurred in Aldridge, 5 in Rushall, 1 in Pelsall, 5 in Pheasey, 5 in Streetly, and 4 cases in Great Barr.

Four of these 27 cases were notified from Institutions and six cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A."

The total number of cases on the Register at the end of 1950 was 137, made up as follows :—

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
58	17	51	11

At the end of 1949 the number on the Register was 123. The notification of Tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Nine deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.31 and 0.10 respectively.

The ages at death, divided into sexes, are shown on the following Table :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	4	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—45	1	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and up	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	12	2	2	5	4	1	2

The above Table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered in my Register and deaths from this disease, classified according to age and sex during the year 1950.

No action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. Three cases were notified on Form "2."

Mortuary.

The mortuary at Rushall continues to prove of great convenience both to the medical profession and the police.

Privies.

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 21 ; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

Cesspools.

The introduction of a free cesspool emptying service to the public during the year, was instrumental in considerably reducing complaints of nuisance arising from cesspools. This service has been greatly appreciated by residents of houses drained to cesspools.

Vaccination.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Aged Persons.

Action was taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

In April, 1950, an aged male person was voluntarily removed to St. John's Hospital, Walsall, and his vacated home was disinfected and cleansed.

Home and Domestic Help.

This service is now conducted by the County Council.

Food Hygiene Campaign.

The above campaign was conducted in July, 1950, and was well patronised by traders from every part of the District. Judging by the remarks of those present, the campaign was a success and much useful information was disseminated. Particulars of the campaign are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

General Remarks.

The health of the population during the year 1950 was good.

The Live Birth Rate decreased from 16.66 in 1949 to 16.03 (or 14.10 Corrected Birth Rate) in 1950, and the Still Birth Rate increased from 0.24 to 0.48 per 1,000 of the population.

The statistics compare favourably with those for all England and Wales.

It is very pleasing to note that, as in the last three years, no Maternal Death was due to Sepsis. The number of deaths from Tuberculosis, however, increased from 7 to 12.

I would again remind the Council there are a number of houses under Demolition or Clearance Orders which are still occupied.

These properties yearly deteriorate and it has now become a most urgent need for the inhabitants to be re-housed. I believe the time has come when the need of people living in such conditions merits high priority in the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme.

The work of the Department continues to be efficiently and smoothly conducted. Mr. Boocock and the Staff have worked regularly, willingly and conscientiously—the former, after many years in the service of the Council—has acquired a thorough knowledge of the sanitary requirements and problems of the District, and this experience is of great value to the Department.

I again desire to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also all fellow Officers and Council Staff for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties, during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
RATES PER 1,000 HOME POPULATION :				
BIRTHS :				
Live Births	15·8	17·6	16·7	17·8
Still Births	0·37	0·45	0·38	0·36
DEATHS :				
All Causes	11·6	12·3	11·6	11·8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	0·36	0·42	0·33	0·39
Influenza	0·10	0·09	0·10	0·07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencepha- litis)	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01
Pneumonia	0·46	0·49	0·45	0·48
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Meningococcal infection	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Scarlet Fever	1·50	1·56	1·61	1·23
Whooping Cough ..	3·60	3·97	3·15	3·21
Diphtheria	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·03
Erysipelas	0·17	0·19	0·16	0·17
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	—	—
Measles	8·39	8·76	8·36	6·57
Pneumonia	0·70	0·77	0·61	0·59
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencepha- litis)				
Paralytic	0·13	0·12	0·11	0·08
Non-paralytic ..	0·05	0·05	0·06	0·05
Food Poisoning ..	0·17	0·16	0·14	0·25

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950—continued.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS			
DEATHS :				
All causes under 1 year of age	29·8 (a)	33·8	29·4	26·3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1·9	2·2	1·6	1·0
	RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL (LIVE AND STILL) BIRTHS			
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5·81	7·43	4·33	6·03

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

International List No. and cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
651 Abortion with Sepsis	0·09	7
650, 652 Other Abortion	0·05	4
640-649, 670-678 Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0·54	
681 Sepsis of Childbirth and the Puerperium	0·03	
680, 682-689. Other complications of the Puerperium	0·15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

Total Deaths.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1950).

CAUSES OF DEATH.								M.	F.
ALL CAUSES								145	111
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
3	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9	Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	8
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	16
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	8
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3
20	Other Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	25
21	Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1
22	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	16
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
34	All Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
35	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
36	Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—								Male	Female
Total								7	9
Legitimate								7	9
Illegitimate								—	—
Live Births :—									
Total								251	209
Legitimate								247	206
Illegitimate								4	3
Still Births :—									
Total								9	5
Legitimate								9	5
Illegitimate								—	—
POPULATION (MID-SUMMER, 1950)								28,690	
(Estimated)									

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-fourth Annual Report for the year 1950.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk to the Council, and Surveyor, for the help and co-operation received from them.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

Samples have been taken from wells and springs serving several houses, which upon chemical analysis and bacteriological examination indicated unsatisfactory supplies.

In one case the cleansing of storage tanks and pipe-lines produced an improvement and in others endeavour has been made to obtain piped water services from the mains supply of the South Staffordshire Water Works Company.

The high capital expenditure and/or annual charges arising presents a serious problem in dealing with the isolated cottages concerned. This matter is still under the consideration of the Health Committee. Works commenced on supplies for two cottages during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, and in most cases water closets are provided for each individual house.

There still remain, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district	..	21
---	----	----

Number of pails remaining in the district	..	81
---	----	----

Five Privies and 2 Pail Closets have been eliminated.

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. H. S. Onions, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No works have been carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1950.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Effluence from sewage disposal works in the area has been maintained at a satisfactory standard of purity.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	By Local Authority	78
(b)	By Other Authority	Nil
(c)	By Private Enterprise	16

Number of Houses in Course of Erection at the End of the Year.

(a)	By Local Authority	60
(b)	By Other Local Authorities	Nil
(c)	By Private Enterprise	9

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK.

(April 1st, 1950 to March 31st, 1951)

Rats and Mice destruction work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rat operative. The time spent on rat work has been (during the year), equivalent to 32% of the full working time of one man.

The rat operative is employed part-time on other services and during the year some considerable working time was lost owing to sickness.

PREMISES INSPECTED

	Private Properties	Council Premises	Totals
Found Infested	31	2	33
Found Not Infested	111	—	111
	142	2	144

VISITS MADE

	Private Properties	Council Sewers	Other Premises	Total
Non-Treatment Visits ..	142	2	115	259
Treatment Visits ..	203	60	—	263
	345	62	115	522

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year special attention has been given to the question of the abatement of smoke from the local brick manufacturing industry.

The burning of blue bricks presents special problems. Representatives of the four local Brick Manufacturers met the Health Committee at a Special Meeting on 9th November, 1950, and constructive co-operation was assured.

The problem is being approached both in respect of boiler management and of the more intricate problem of burning blue bricks.

Frequent consultation is taking place with a view to improvement.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951.

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report on the work of collection and disposal of house refuse and of the salvage operations for the year 1950-51 in respect of the whole of the district.

Staff.

Labour has proved very difficult to obtain and the labour actually employed has proved somewhat irregular in attendance.

The number of men to be employed shown on estimate at the commencement of the year was 22 men. The possible hours of men actually employed show a total equivalent to 20.75 men on the year, whereas the actual attendance at work shows an average equivalent to 18.30 persons at work each week. It will, therefore, be seen that there has been throughout the year a deficiency of staff actually employed, equivalent to 2.45 persons each week, and the total deficiency on the estimated figure of 22 men, 3.7 persons each week.

Labour does appear to be attracted to more remunerative work and the consequence is that there is some repeated change of staff occurring, and the age of the staff available is often higher than is desirable in newcomers.

Absenteeism has occurred to the following extent :—

Working hours lost by absenteeism :—

One man hours lost by workers certified sick	4300	..	9.05%	of possible working hours.
One man hours lost through causes other than certified sickness	1312	..	2.76%	„
Total one man hours lost ..	5612	..	11.81%	„

Bonus.

The amount paid during the year to men employed (in bonuses) was :—

Incentive Bonus	£448 2s. 8d.
-------------------------	--------------

Sick Benefit.

The amount of wages paid as sick benefit to the staff whilst absent from work for reasons of certified sickness has shown a net cost to the Council of £280 12s. 11d.

Vehicles Employed.

- One 8.9 cubic yard S. and D. Freighter dust cart.
- One 10.5 cubic yard S. and D. Freighter dust cart.
- One 13 cubic yard S. and D. Freighter dust cart.
- One 13 cubic yard S. and D. Freighter dust cart.
- One Morris Commercial Lorry used on salvage work.

Disposal of Refuse.

Tipping has been carried out at Aldridge Road, Streetly, and Heath End, Pelsall.

Progress of Work.

The average period of collection throughout the year has been :—

Rushall and Pelsall	8.49 Days.
Aldridge and Streetly	9.12 „
Great Barr and Pheasey	8.90 „
Giving an average for all districts of	8.84 „

The Xmas holiday and bad weather was the cause of a longer collection period of approximately 14 days for roughly two months of the heavy collection season.

Further difficulty was met by absenteeism during the particularly wet weather experienced and casualties from influenza.

The following working days were lost by the respective vehicles as shown :—

S. and D. Freighter No. 2	..	..	..	9.5
No. 3 (under repairs)	..			16.0
No. 4	..	..	..	2.0
No. 5	..	..	..	Nil
Total Days lost	..	..	..	27.5

Costings.

In calculating costings a “ depreciation charge ” based on a seven years’ life of the S. and D. freighters Nos. 4 and 5 vehicles, has been included. All other vehicles have been fully depreciated.

The collection costs are calculated on the figure £7,750 6s. 7d., which is the net collection cost after deducting revenue from salvage.

			£	s.	d.
Gross Collection Costs	..	..	8,468	7	9
Less Revenue <i>ex</i> Salvage	..	..	718	1	2
Net Collection Costs	..	..	7,750	6	7

The following Table shows the cost of collection and disposal under the various headings and also makes comparison with similar costings for the year 1949-50.

	ALL DISTRICT — YEAR :	
	1949—50	1950—51
Area “ in acres ”	9,284	9,284
Population	28,450	28,690
Weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day	13.73 cwts.	15.89 cwts.
Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse and collection of salvage (including depreciation) per annum	£ s. d. 6,764 15 4	£ s. d. 7,750 6 7
Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum, collection and disposal (refuse salvage collection)	237 15 6	270 9 6
Cost collection and disposal per occupied house per annum	17 3	19 6.4
Cost per ton per annum— Collection and disposal	18 11.6	18 7.3
Rate in the Pound, collection and disposal ..	9.41	1 3.3
Cost per 1,000 premises cleansed per annum (based on 7,932 premises)	862 14 0	977 0 0

The costs for the year 1950-51 show an overall increase over the year 1949-50 of 14.57%—£985.573.

This increase is mainly accounted for by increased costs of the following items :—

Wages	..	..	..	..	..	7.99%
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	3.08%
Sundry Stores	..	..	..	..	..	3.33%

These three items approximately cover the overall increase.

Wages and petrol are increased costs entirely outside the control of the Council.

YEARLY SUMMARY OF SALVAGE COLLECTED.

Year ending 31st March, 1951.

The Table below shows the quantities of various materials salvaged and sold during the year, together with the income resulting from the sales.

The previous year's sales amounted to £756 3s. 6d.

Salvage of waste paper was not undertaken in the early part of the year, recommencing in August only.

MATERIALS.	Quantity				Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	35	8	0	3	291	19	2
Cardboard	2	11	1	0	33	6	3
Total Paper	37	19	1	3	325	5	5
Cullet, White	3	19	1	0	7	16	6
Textiles		4	0	14	4	14	2
Kitchen Waste	135	17	0	0	375	15	3
Miscellaneous					1	5	6
Rope and String		7	2	25	3	4	4
					£718	1	2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections made re Housing Defects—

Informal	..	..	..	..	611
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	49
Housing Act	..	..	..	..	11
Inspections made re Demolition	..	..	..	..	15
„ „ Clearance	..	..	..	..	24
Number of Visits re Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	23
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	2
Food Shops	..	..	..	..	86
Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	17
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	254
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	12

Dairies	4
Factories	134
Outworkers	22
Drainage	191
Closet Accommodation	72
Pail Closet	12
Cesspool	12
Dustbins	590
Refuse—House	56
Trade	1
Salvage	8
Vermin	25
Animals—Improperly kept	20
Ditches	3
Water Supply	24
Accumulations	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds	38
Smoke Abatement	8
Unsound Food	11
Housing Accommodation	1
Rats and Mice	61
Miscellaneous	169
Infectious Disease—	
Inquiries	39
Disinfection—Premises	5
Clothing	1
VISITS—Total	2611
Visits made—Primary	1481
Re-visits	1130
	2611

DUST BIN SCHEME.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75 (3). Local Authorities (Charges for Dust Bins) Order, 1949.

During the year dust bins were supplied under the above provisions as follows :—

Dust Bins supplied 162

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded.
Informal ..	584	453	131
Statutory ..	138	109	—
Totals	722	662	131

FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories on Register (including Bakehouses, 6)	89
Number of visits made—Factories	134
Bakehouses	12
Outworkers' Premises	22
	<hr/>
	168
	<hr/>

Sanitary Accommodation in Factories—Dealt With.

Found insufficient	3
Found defective	1
Not separate for sexes	Nil
	<hr/>
	4
	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Primary visits and inquiries	39
Disinfection of infected premises	6
	<hr/>
	45
	<hr/>

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES : TOGETHER WITH NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS.

House Defects :

House roofs	66
Ceilings, plaster	58
Walls, plaster	57
brickwork	16
Floors, boards	30
joists	7
skirting boards	1
quarries	7
Windows, frames	62
sashcords	24
Doors	29
Stairs	7
Firegrates	20
Ovens	1
Chimneys	12
Yard paving	1

Water :

Pipes and taps	11
Water tanks	4
Hot water cisterns	5
Wash boilers	18
Sinks	5
Sink waste pipes	4

Closet Accommodation Defects :

Water closets, structure	6
cisterns	30
pans	11
seats	4
Absence of flushing app.	14
Waste water closets converted to water closets	1

Drainage Defects :

Drains, defective	1
choked	25
Cesspools, defective	1
overflowing	4
Gullies	4
Inspection chambers	13
Soil pipes	1
Rainwater downspouts	5
Eaves gutters	6

Miscellaneous Matters :

Animals improperly kept	3
Offensive accumulations	2
Unfenced well	1
Verminous persons	1
articles (furniture)	2
articles (clothing)	3
premises	2
Unclean premises	3
Private water supply, collection and storage system cleansed	1

FOOD PREMISES. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF:**Inspections made :***Inspections made :*

Dairies	21
Bakehouses	12
Food Shops	86
Ice Cream Shops	254
Re Unsound Food	11

Visits Made for Supervision of Food Premises	384
--	-----

Ice Cream and Preserved Foods.

The following premises are registered under the provisions of Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

For the Sale of Ice Cream	63
For the Manufacture of Ice Cream	2
For the Manufacture of Preserved Foods	4

69

Unsatisfactory Conditions in the fore-going registered premises have been dealt with.

Repairs to :—

Floors	6
Wall plastering	9
Ceiling plastering	9
Paintwork	8
Windows	1
Drainage	4

Provision of :—

Water supply, cold	7
hot	13
Soap and Towels	11
Sinks	10
Ventilation	8
Lighting	5

Ice Cream Sampling.

The following samples were procured during the year and were graded according to the methylene blue test as follows :—

Grade 1	46
Grade 2	26
Grade 3	42
Grade 4	15
<hr/>	
Total	129
<hr/>	

The high figures under Grades 3 and 4 arose chiefly from insufficient refrigeration of a delivery van during transport from wholesaler to retailer.

This circumstance involved re-sampling at frequent intervals until the conditions improved.

UN SOUND—FOODS.

The following foods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption.

	Tins	lbs.
Butter		1½
Cheese		42
Fish		228
Peaches	1	
Beef		88½
Eggs 15 dozen		
Pickled Cabbage, 1 doz. jars		12
Sheep (2 carcasses)		126

Food Hygiene—Propaganda.

Propaganda work has been carried out during the year, including :—

- (a) A circular letter was distributed to all " Food Traders " in the District, requesting care in food hygiene and indicating the potential causes and dangers of food poisoning.
- (b) A Food Hygiene demonstration and talk was given to traders on July 17th, 1950. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. V. E. Milne, and the Chief Bacteriologist of Milton Deason Laboratories, demonstrated the value of " Clean Food Handling." Films and other exhibits were used. Appreciation by traders attending has been repeatedly expressed.
- (c) Talks have been given to women's social organisations by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, on the domestic side of food hygiene.
- (d) Visits by the Sanitary Inspectors to food establishments have presented opportunities for advice to employers and staff, which has proved beneficial.

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, DURING 1950.

The following record of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district, has been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

ARTICLE	Taken	Genuine	Adul- terated	Remarks
Milk	16	16	—	
„ Pasteurised	39	39	—	
„ Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—	
„ T.T. (Pasteurised)	8	8	—	
„ Sterilised	13	13	—	
„ Channel Islands Pasteurised	1	1	—	
Sausage, Beef	5	5	—	
„ Pork	5	5	—	
Butter	1	1	—	
Cooking Fat	1	1	—	
Ground Almonds	1	1	—	
Lemonspread	1	1	—	
Lemonade Tablets	1	1	—	
Margarine	1	1	—	
Sago	1	1	—	
Sardines	1	1	—	
Tapioca	1	1	—	
	97	97	—	

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1950.

	No. of Samples Sub- mitted	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Con- taining Tubercle Bacilli	Biological	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		Pass	Fail
Tuberculin Tested (Certified) ..	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	73	71	2	71	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	96	80	4	84	—	—	—	—	12	—
Pasteurised (Channel Island) ..	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	69	—	—	—	—	69	—	—	—	—
Undesignated ..	46	16	7	—	—	—	—	—	23	—
TOTAL ..	296	176	13	158	2	69	—	—	38	—

HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	232
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	..	232
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		136
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	136
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	230
(5)	Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	.. .. .	Nil
	Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	.. .. .	2

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :*

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	453
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.. ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners	.. .. .	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	..	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. .. .	124
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By owners	.. .. .	90
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	.. ..	29

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | | |
|--|-------|---|
| (1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .. .. | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .. .. | 8 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- | | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .. .. . | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | .. .. | Nil |

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

- (a)
- | | | |
|--|---------|----|
| (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | .. .. . | 7 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | .. .. | 8 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | .. .. | 69 |
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year
- | | | |
|--|---------|---|
| | | 1 |
|--|---------|---|
- (c)
- | | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | .. .. . | Nil |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | .. .. | Nil |

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

